

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /057 W

-----270955Z 128889 /10

R 270858Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4409
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: JA, KS, PFOR
SUBJECT: ROK RELEASES THREE JAPANESE PRISONERS

1. DECEMBER 27 ASAHI REPORTED THAT SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT HAD RELEASED THREE JAPANESE CITIZENS, ALL ETHNIC KOREANS, SERVING LIFE SENTENCES FOR VIOLATIONS OF ROK ANTI-COMMUNIST ACTIVITY AND NATIONAL SECURITY LAWS. THE THREE -- GENTARO ITO, MITSUJI SAWAMOTO, AND SUSUMU NATSUTANI -- WERE EXPECTED TO BE FLOWN TO JAPAN ON EVENING OF DECEMBER 27. ASAHI NOTED THAT ROK WAS CAREFUL TO DESCRIBE RELEASE NOT AS RESULT OF AMNESTY BUT RATHER DUE TO SPECIAL INTERVENTION OF PRESIDENT PARK CHUNG HEE. SEVERAL DIET MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY LDP UPPER HOUSE MEMBER KAZUO TAMAKI, HAD EARLIER PETITIONED PRESIDENT PARK FOR PRISONERS' RELEASE. ASAHI SPECULATED RELEASE WAS TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH INAUGURATION OF FUKUDA CABINET.

2. FONOFF NE ASIA DEPDIR KAWASHIMA CONFIRMED ACCURACY OF ASHAI ARTICLE. GOJ, HE EXPLAINED, HAD HAD INDICATIONS FOR SOME TIME THAT RELEASE WAS BEING CONSIDERED BY ROK. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, LOCAL ROK EMBASSY POLITICAL
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COUNSELOR DESCRIBED RELEASE AS "FRIENDLY GESTURE" TO GOJ. WITH THIS RELEASE, HE NOTED, THERE WERE "NO MORE JAPANESE PRISONERS IN KOREAN JAILS."
SHOESMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TOKYO18856
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760472-0796
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761211/aaaaajqe.tel
Line Count: 59
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <27 SEP 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROK RELEASES THREE JAPANESE PRISONERS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, JA, KS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006